

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action...



PROTECTING OUR NATURAL AREAS
A STUDY OF BLOOMINGTON'S WETLANDS

The City recently conducted a study to inventory and assess the health of 235 wetland areas in Bloomington. The assessment results will be used to update the functions of the wetlands that are on public lands and easements and aid the City in storm water pond management.

The last time the City conducted a wetlands inventory was in 1997, as part of the *Wetland Protection and Management Plan*. The City supplemented the inventory in 2000 with the wetlands that exist below the Minnesota River bluff line.

Prior to the *Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act of 1991*, there was little regulation of the impacts on wetlands, with many wetlands being drained, filled or excavated. The primary agency that oversees Bloomington's wetlands is the City, although wetland activities are overseen by many agencies, including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Army Corps of Engineers, and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, among other watershed districts.

Preliminary results show that the environmental health of Bloomington's wetlands has not significantly changed since 1991. Official results and a report will be available to view on the City's website in the spring.

For more information, contact Bloomington Civil Engineer Steve Segar at 952-563-4533.

EARTH ACTION HEROES
QUILTING ANGELS

Every Tuesday and Friday morning, a group of women gather around sewing machines in a small room at Creekside. They drink coffee, chat about their families and sew quilts – lots of quilts.

Surrounded by heaps of donated fabric, batting and thread, under the glow of fluorescent lights, they sew.

The quilting group began in 1989, yet most of the 12 members, including Arline Jakeman, Ellen Henning, Mary Lou Tracy, Jan Johnson and Vieno Macewicz have been “regulars” at Creekside since the early 1980s.

Most in the group grew up sewing, having had mothers or friends who taught them to sew. Lest any of them were to forget those early lessons, high school home economics served as a refresher.

Arline Jakeman remembers that sewing was more than a chore; it was a way of life.



“I grew up on a farm with eight other kids and my mom sewed all our clothes,” Jakeman said.

“When I was old enough she taught me to sew

and embroider. I sewed all my kids’ clothes and diapers, too. In those days, we didn’t throw anything away.”

Macewicz, one of the founding members of the group, started visiting Creekside in 1973.

“It was unheard of to throw anything out. I sewed clothes for all six of my kids,” Macewicz said.

All of the women still sew for children, although not their own. Many of the quilts they sew go to the Minneapolis-based Sewing Angels, an organization that distributes quilts to local children’s hospitals. Nearly every item they sew is given away. Some of the group’s benefactors have included Bridging, Inc., Martin Luther Manor, Cornerstone and the Veteran’s Hospital.

What the women don’t donate goes to the “free table” at Creekside.

“I estimate we produce about 20 quilts a month,” Jakeman said. “We donate them all.”

Individually, each member recycles and conserves resources at home, too, from paper to water to plastic bottle caps.

Jan Johnson, a member of the group since 2002, saves all of her plastic



bottle tops and brings them to an Aveda cosmetics store that recycles them.

“Too much gets thrown out,” Johnson said. “The landfills are too full. I’m always shocked when I see an aluminum can in a regular trash bin. I’ll pick it out and put it in the recycling.”

Even the sewing machines the women use to make their quilts are recycled.

“We’ve had nine machines donated to us over the years,” Jakeman said. “And almost every day someone brings us a donation of batting or yarn. We rarely, if ever, buy any materials new. It’s just the way we were brought up.”

To make a donation of batting or fabric to the Creekside quilting group, visit Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, or call 952-563-4944.

THINK SPRING!

2011 CITYWIDE CURBSIDE CLEANUP

GET READY TO DECLUTTER!

The Citywide Curbside Cleanup is right around the corner. **Be sure you’re prepared by setting your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on your pickup day.**

Seniors and disabled residents should contact their Neighborhood Watch block captains or call Human Services, 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740, for assistance. Requests for assistance must be made at least one week in advance. See the April Briefing for more details.

SCHEDULE, FROM WEST TO EAST	
West of Normandale	Saturday, April 9
France to Normandale	Saturday, April 16
Penn to France	Saturday, April 23
Portland to Penn	Saturday, April 30
East of Portland	Saturday, May 7



RESOLVE TO REUSE AND RECYCLE IN 2011
TIPS FOR REDUCING WASTE

More than one million tons of trash are created in Hennepin County every year. Here are some easy steps you can take to reduce your waste in 2011:

- Sell, give away or donate usable clothing and household goods.
- Look for less packaging and avoid disposables. At the grocery store, buy in bulk and bring your own bags.

- Take your name off junk mail lists. See the *Hold the Mail* brochure on Hennepin County’s website at www.hennepin.us, keywords: **Reduce waste**.
- Purchase a reusable mug. Have coffee every day? Bring a reusable mug with you to the coffee shop.
- Compost your kitchen scraps. You can compost your fruit and vegetable

scraps, coffee grounds, and egg shells in a backyard compost bin.

- Borrow, rent and shop used.

Before you run to the store to buy a new item, think about how much you will use it.

For more information, visit www.rethinkrecycling.com.

